

Introduced by Senator Fuller

February 18, 2011

An act to amend Section 800 of the Public Resources Code, relating to powerplants.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 758, as introduced, Fuller. Powerplants: siting.

Existing law declares, among other things, that it is the policy of the state to encourage the use of nuclear energy, geothermal resources, and such other energy sources as are currently under development, wherever feasible, recognizing that such use has the potential of providing direct economic benefit to the public, while helping to conserve limited fossil fuel resources and promoting air cleanliness.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 800 of the Public Resources Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 800. It is the policy of the State of California that the location
- 4 and operation of thermal electric powerplants shall enhance public
- 5 benefits and protect against or minimize adverse effects on the
- 6 public, the ecology of the land and its wildlife, and the ecology of
- 7 state waters and their aquatic life, and that the public's opportunity
- 8 to enjoy the material, physical, and aesthetic benefits of its
- 9 resources shall be preserved to the greatest extent feasible.

1 The Legislature declares that it is also the policy of the state to
2 encourage the use of nuclear energy, geothermal resources, and
3 ~~such~~ *those* other energy sources as are currently under
4 development, wherever feasible, recognizing that ~~such~~ *their* use
5 has the potential of providing direct economic benefit to the public,
6 while helping to conserve limited fossil fuel resources and
7 promoting air cleanliness.

8 The Legislature further declares that it is the policy of the state
9 to encourage planning by the state's electric utilities toward the
10 above-stated objectives and to assist the utilities in their evaluations
11 of the effects on the environment of proposed thermal powerplant
12 sites and to that end ~~a the State Powerplant Siting Committee~~
13 *Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission*
14 has been established to effect such coordination with the utilities
15 and to carry out specific responsibilities as may be defined in the
16 Public Utilities Code and the Public Resources Code.

17 The Legislature finds that the state should conduct research
18 relating to the conservation, enhancement and prudent use of its
19 resources, including those associated with the siting of thermal
20 powerplants.

21 The Legislature finds that the state should also stimulate, sponsor
22 and conduct appropriate research and study on new methods of
23 powerplant siting which offer potential for enhanced public benefits
24 in location, operation, and protection of the environment with such
25 investigations including underground and underocean sites,
26 manmade islands, powerplant parks, the desirability of locations
27 on or near tidal lagoons, and other concepts which may appear
28 attractive in minimizing the impact on the environment of the large
29 projected increase in California electric generating capacity.